



That It Might Be Fulfilled by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

Fulfilled Bible prophecy is a powerfully convincing argument for the living God, for it is the tapestry throughout time and the Bible that proves:

1. God is;
2. God lives;
3. God communicates;
4. God knows all;
5. God rules in earthly affairs;
6. God loves sinners who will repent;
7. God is timeless.

Without fulfilled Bible prophecy to hold its text together, the Bible might, indeed be considered a good book of fables!

“Fulfilled” is from a Greek word, “*πληρωω*” which is used as,

To render full, i.e., to complete, specifically, to bring to pass, ratify, accomplish (p. 518, *Thayer*, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1963).

When used in the New Testament to show what events God had in Mind when He inspired the prophecy, it clarifies and ends all speculation.

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (**2 Peter 1:19-21**).

The formula sometimes is used in Matthew, “that it might be fulfilled” to be even more explicit: **Matthew 1:22; 2:15, 23; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4; 27:35**. Let the Bible speak.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet [**Isaiah 7:14**], saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a

Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, God with us.' (**Matthew 1:19-23**)

What had been done to fill this prophecy full?

A. Jesus' genealogy connecting Him to David was given (Matthew 1:1-17**).**

1. Jesus' genealogy showed He deserved David's throne:

Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

- a) 'When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and
 - b) I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and
 - c) I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
 - d) I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.
 - e) If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men.
 - f) But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you.' (**2 Samuel 7:11-15**).
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- a) How long David would "rest" is not specified [**Acts 2:20; Romans 1:3**];
 - b) Solomon's "kingdom" was not "established," but Jesus' church is [**1 Timothy 3:15**];
 - c) Solomon's "kingdom" was not "forever," Jesus' kingdom is [**Luke 1:30-33**];
 - d) Only Jesus could say, "I and My Father are one" (**John 10:30**) [**Hebrews 1:5**];
 - e) **While Jesus certainly did not commit any iniquity**, He was "chastened" for all sinners who repent (**Hebrews 2:9**) [**Hebrews 5:8-9; 1 Peter 2:24**];
 - f) Jesus' throne is "forever and ever" (**Hebrews 1:8**).

When God prophesied to David through Nathan, God was looking past Solomon to Jesus. God knew what He meant when His prophet said it, and God knew when His particulars were met, so He called our attention to it through Matthew.

2. David's throne was not inherited on earth, but in Heaven, as the Apostles of Christ preached on Pentecost in the **Book of Acts:**

"Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne. "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses" (**Acts 2:29-32**).

Jesus' genealogy qualified Him, and Him alone, to sit on David's throne in Heaven!

B. A virgin was specified and the Holy Spirit made a Son of God

(Matthew 1:18-21). Never before had God been "with us" ("Immanuel") in this manner, by becoming a fleshly person, until this birth of Jesus. The only prophecy of the virgin birth lay dormant for centuries until:

1. "The virgin" (Hebrew *ha almah*) means one, specific virgin. All females begin life as "virgins," but lose "virginity" by copulation and/or receiving male seed.
 - a. *Almah*, a feminine form, occurs six other times in the Old Testament: **Genesis 24:43; Exodus 2:8; Psalm 68:25; Proverbs 30:19; Song of Solomon 1:3; 6:8**. According to these other passages, it never refers to a married woman.
 - b. **Matthew (1:22-23)** quotes **Isaiah 7:14** as fulfilled in Jesus' birth.
 - 1) Matthew's Greek *he parthenos* ("the virgin") is used for *ha almah*. *Parthenos* **always** means "chaste, virginal, unviolated" in New Testament use: **Matthew 25:1, 7, 11; Luke 1:27; Acts 21:9; I Corinthians 7:25, 28, 34-36; 2 Corinthians 11:2**.
 - 2) Mary was "virgin" (**Luke 1:27**) because:
 - a) she conceived "before they came together" (**Matthew 1:18**);
 - b) Mary confessed, "I do not know a man" (**Luke 1:34**);
 - c) Joseph "did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son" (**Matthew 1:25**);
 - d) "betrothed" (**Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:27; 2:5**) in Greek is *mnasteuo*. Interestingly the word for "fasting, abstinence" is *nasteuo*.
The subtle word similarity is not lost. Betrothal (today called "engagement") was the period from a couple's commitment to each other till their wedding ceremony, and was (and still should be) a time of sexual abstinence.
 - 3) Mary was "the virgin" because never before had:
 - a) the angel Gabriel designated who it would be (**Luke 1:26-38**);
 - b) Isaiah 7:14 been announced as "fulfilled" (**Matthew 1:22-23**); and
 - c) a "virgin" been "with child" (**Matthew 1:18, 20**), nor since!
2. **The "Son" was "only begotten" (John 1:18) because:**
 - a. Mary was betrothed to Joseph (**Matthew 1:18-20**);
 - b. She conceived, not by a man, but "of the Holy Spirit" (**Matthew 1:20**);
 - c. This Child "will save His people from their sins" (**Matthew 1:21**).

NEVER BEFORE, OR SINCE, WAS ISAIAH'S PROPHECY "FULFILLED!"

The **Book of Matthew** was written for and from the Jewish perspective, and appealed to those with a background in and respect for God's Holy Word. If Messianic prophecies had been "dually fulfilled," as many commentators state, this conversation between the eunuch and Philip would never have happened:

So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' And he said, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. The place in the Scripture which he read was this: 'He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.' So the eunuch answered Philip and said, 'I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?' Then Philip opened

his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him (**Acts 8:30-35**).

The eunuch was reading the prophecy in **Isaiah** is chapter **53**, verses **7-8**, and he knew the importance of it lay in its fulfillment. Hence, his question, "Of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" needed an answer. If Philip had been a "dual fulfillment" advocate, he could have replied: the prophet, himself, his son, another son in King Ahaz's day, the Israelites, the Levites, or the priests under Moses. But all of these are pure speculation without any endorsement from God! Philip, however, showed there was only One Person Whom God intended this prophecy to point to, for Philip "beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him." There was only one answer to the eunuch's question and the purpose of the prophecy in Isaiah. Jesus' answer to Peter applies:

"Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven" (**Matthew 16:17**).

John the Baptist had understood this specific, singular fulfillment of prophecy, for:

Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, 'I am not the Christ.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' And he answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?' He said: 'I am "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the LORD," as the prophet Isaiah said" (**John 1:19-23**).

John was not the fulfillment of the prophecies of the Messiah ("Christ"); nor the actual person, Elijah, the Prophet; nor "the Prophet," described by Moses in **Deuteronomy 18:15-18**; but he was doing the work of the only specified person of **Isaiah 40:3-5**. John knew "who" he was and which prophecy he, alone, fulfilled.

Confusion about fulfillment of Bible prophecies comes, not from God, but from men who don't believe in God's Word!

For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints (**1 Corinthians 14:33**).

God knew what He meant when He inspired a prophet to speak on His behalf, and He certainly knows when events have met all His requirements ("fulfilled").

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (**Romans 10:17**).

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me" (**John 14:1**).

Faith in God's Word leads to faith in Jesus Christ!

-----**John T. Polk II**

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